CALPEEK

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CAMPAIGN 2002: **ACA 6 – ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO REFORM TERM LIMITS IS KILLED IN ASSEMBLY.**

Editor's note: Remember **Prop. 45** on Calif.'s March 5th primary ballot? It was an initiative to give members of the Calif. Legislature more time in office. It was rejected by a *57.7%* NO vs. *42.3%* YES vote. The week of June 10th a constitutional amendment to once again reform the current term limit law was introduced in the Calif. State Assembly, ACA 6. But ACA 6's life was very short. It was killed in the Assembly June 19th by assemblymembers who hope to become state senators. Here's the background…

…Many sources think Prop. 45 was a flawed and poorly conceived attempt to reform Prop. 140, approved by voters in 1990. As one source told **Calpeek**, "Prop. 45 was defeated by itself." In order to get on the ballot to run for an additional four years in either the Assembly or Senate, a termed out lawmaker had to collect signatures of voters in his/her district equal to 20% of the ballots cast in the last general election. The driving force behind Prop. 45 was Senate President John Burton(D-S.F.), who would have gotten another term had voters approved Prop. 45…

…Three months later ACA 6 surfaced, authored by Mike Briggs(R-Fresno) and co-authored by GOP Assembly Caucus Leader Tony Strickland of Camarillo – one of the legislature's more conservative members who opposed Prop. 45. In fact, it was hard to find any GOPers who publicly were in favor of Prop. 45. So why did Strickland and some other GOPers doing a *flip-flop* on term limits? Haven't heard a good answer. But the bigger question is whether Strickland has the blessing of Demo Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson of L.A.? Many sources think Wesson was very supportive of Strickland's move. The two have a good working relationship and it's no secret Wesson wanted to have another shot at reforming the current term limits law – especially now that he's Speaker…

…The key differences between Prop. 45 & ACA 6: 1) this reform measure is being pushed in the State Assembly as opposed to the State Senate; 2) there's **no** signature collecting requirement; and 3) this term limit proposal says a lawmaker can have *12 years* in the Calif. Legislature – 6 terms in the State Assembly, 3 terms in the Senate – or any combination which adds up to 12 years. The current law allows 3 terms in the lower house and 2 terms in the Senate (*14 years total*). So this is a reduction under ACA 6…

…The real aim of ACA 6 is to stop the chaos and constant turnover in the Assembly: 3 terms (6 years) in the Assembly doesn't provide the kind of stability necessary to do an effective job. Of course U.S. Term Limits saw ACA 6 as "absolute arrogance" and "near criminal after voters crushed Prop. 45 in March." ACA 6 was supposed to have been heard on June 18th before the E&R Committee, but that's when everything came apart. The lobbying against ACA 6 was intense and Briggs/Strickland dropped ACA 6. Stay tuned…

CAMPAIGN 2002: **WILL GREEN PARTY'S CAMEJO BE CALIF.'s VERSION OF NADER IN GOVERNOR'S RACE?**

Editor's note: If it's really a close race between incumbent Demo Gov. Gray Davis and GOP rival Bill Simon Jr., is it possible that Green Party candidate Peter Miguel Camejo could siphon off just enough votes to give Simon a win? Here's our update & analysis…

…This scenario didn't seem likely until recently, but it's now a given that this contest between Davis and Simon is down to single digits and in fact one independent poll taken for the SEIU (by Demo pollster Diane Feldman) showed Davis down to Simon by 9 points. The Davis polling shows the governor ahead, but only by a point or two. Regardless, this SEIU poll shows Green candidate Camejo getting 4%…

…There have been a few stories written about the 61-year-old Camejo, but he's not some poor environmental wacko. He's an investment guru and his company promotes socially responsible publicly held companies. And he's got *deep pockets* (from his economic statement it looks like his net worth is $6-8 million). But is he a real lefty? In 1976, he ran for president as the socialist candidate. He was on the ballot in 30 states. To say that the Green Party is thrilled with Camejo is an understatement. They're hoping his appeal will spill over to old Peace & Freedom Party members

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as well as to the disaffected left of the Demo Party in Calif...

...And that's what got some Demo very worried. Turns out that prior to the primary, the very liberal ADA of So. Calif. (Americans for Democratic Action) endorsed Camejo over Davis. That was a flip-flop from 1998 when the ADA endorsed Davis. Although the ADA isn't nearly the organization it was 50 years ago, it's still got some clout with the liberal establishment. Now, sources say, the ADA's Board is having second thoughts – thanks in part to Demo Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg of L.A., who has warned some of her ADA friends that backing Camejo is the same as a vote for Simon. *It's the Nader scenario*. Why did the ADA go for Camejo in the first place? The ADA isn't linked to the Democratic Party – although most ADA members are registered Demos. And there are an *increasing number* of Greens in the ADA. Sources say the ADA went for Camejo not only because they liked his positions, but because there is anger from the left against Davis, who is a centrist. Will the ADA reverse itself in the near future? Sources say it's possible the ADA's endorsement committee will revisit the governor's race...

...FYI: The Green Party's Donna Warren is on the ADA Board of Directors and the ADA has endorsed her candidacy over incumbent Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante(D). The ADA has endorsed Steve Westly(D) for Controller; John Garamendi(D) for Insurance Comm.; Treasurer Phil Angelides(D) for reelection; and Sen. Jack O'Connell(D) for SPI. No endorsements yet for Secretary of State or AG. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2002: **ORGANIZED LABOR AND MAYOR HAHN JOIN FORCES TO FIGHT SECESSION DRIVES.** Editor's note: When Jim Hahn was campaigning for L.A. Mayor in 2001, he did so without the support of the powerful L.A. Co. Federation of Labor(AFL-CIO). Federation leader Miguel Contreras had thrown his support to Hahn rival Antonio Villaraigosa. To say that there was a strained relationship between Hahn and Contreras after the election is an understatement. But in this fight to stop both the San Fernando Valley and Hollywood from splitting away from L.A., Hahn and Contreras have formed a new and most say solid relationship. Here's our analysis...

...Hahn and former L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan will headline the 1st of several big rallies aimed at informing the public about the downside of secession. This first rally on June 22nd at L.A. Valley College is a major test to see if the L.A. Co. Federation of Labor has the clout with its own members to produce a turnout of 1,000 people. The *Rally in the Valley* is under the sponsorship of the San Fernando Valley Labor Political Education Cmt.(VLPEC). Also participating in this first rally will be L.A. United – the main campaign organization of Hahn's anti-secession effort; and *One Los Angeles* and *HALO* – the two key grassroots groups opposing the Valley & Hollywood "divorce" from L.A. FYI: As of deadline time it was uncertain whether Villaraigosa would be present. He's firmly opposed to secession...

...Meanwhile, sources tell **Calpeek** that the L.A. Co. Fed has decided that it will NOT make endorsements in any of the 14 council races in the Valley (or 5 in Hollywood), nor will it endorse candidates running for mayor in the two breakaway areas. The L.A. Co. Fed had already been on record opposing Valley/Hollywood secession. Sources say about 10 days ago the L.A. Co. Fed had a sit-down with State Sen. Richard Alarcon(D) to try and persuade him **not** to run for mayor of the Valley. Alarcon still plans to run...

...There are some other potential candidates who are looking at running who also have close ties to labor: Scott J. Svonkin, Demo Assemblyman Paul Koretz's COS, is just about ready to file for a Valley seat; and sources say that Tyrone Freeman of SEIU 434-B is also looking. Filing for Valley/Hollywood seats opens July 15th (closes Aug. 15th)...

...FYI: a very hot issue in the West San Fernando Valley is the big Ahmanson Ranch housing development. While the 3,000 homes would be built on the Ventura Co. side of the line, West Valley folks are very concerned about the 45,000 car trips per day which would clog streets and freeways in their area. L.A. Mayor Hahn has come out against Ahmanson ranch and it puts him on the opposite side of the United Chambers of Commerce (Valley) which supports this development. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

June 27	Last day for initiatives to qualify for November 2002 general election ballot.
July 28-30	DLC Nat'l Conversation 2002, Hilton New York Hotel, NYC
July 31	State campaign reports due.
Aug. 31	Final day of CA Legislative session for 2002.
Sept. 20-22	CA Political Attorneys Assn. annual retreat, Marina Beach Marriott, Marina del Rey.
Sept. 27-29	CRP State Convention, Hayatt Regency, Anaheim, CA.
Sept. 30	Last day for Governor to sign bills.
Oct. 21	Last day to register for November election.
Nov. 5	Calif. General Election.

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***Parskywatch Update*: THE BEST KEPT SECRET SINCE *DEEP THROAT*: WHO IS BEHIND PARSKYWATCH???**

Editor's note: June 17th was the 30th anniversary of the infamous *Watergate break-in*. To this day the identity of *Deep Throat* is still a mystery. Now to ***Parskywatch***. As we've said before, the person behind this cyber warfare aimed at Pres. George Bush's Calif. go-to guy Gerald Parsky is unknown and it's the best kept secret since *Deep Throat*. But in this issue of **Calpeek** we'll narrow the list of *usual suspects*. So for what it's worth, here's our list…

…But first a quick backgrounder. ***Parskywatch*** began in mid-April of this year. It's not a website, but rather an email address (*parskywatch@hotmail.com*). On a rather regular basis Parskywatch memos that bash Parsky are sent out to what sources say is the entire email list of the CA Republican Party + other conservatives in Calif. and the U.S. And to repeat, the folks behind Parskywatch don't like Parsky because he's the guy who pushed through a series of by-law reforms which took power away from the CRP's chairman, Shawn Steel. And in this battle, it's all about power – who's got it and who doesn't. Here's the list:

…Although **Calpeek** has received numerous emails, most tend to focus on 3-4 individuals: former CRP Chair Mike Schroeder, current CRP Chair Steel, former CRP Chair John McGraw and GOP gubernatorial candidate Bill Simon Jr. Our sources tend to rule out Simon, although it's totally true that Parsky and Simon don't like each other. No, this fight is about power within the CA Republican Party – so the individual behind this attack is either Schroeder, McGraw or Steel – or a combo of them working together…

…As noted last week, there was at least one person who thought a ***Demo mole*** was involved, but that's not likely, as the info contained in some of the Parskywatch memos is known only to CRP insiders, such as how much money the CRP lost at the February convention. And then there was this email: "Any press is better than no press, so maybe it's Parsky himself, as Parskywatch is keeping his name alive and well – well alive anyway." Don't think so, but it was an amusing twist. The best email to **Calpeek** suggests that those behind Parskywatch is are small part of "same crowd who opposed CRP reforms last fall. A cabal led by Mike Schroeder using Shawn Steel for his own purposes and aided by John McGraw."…

…**Calpeek's guess**: it's Schroeder w/help from some of his Orange Co. operatives. Why Schroeder? The former CRP chair thinks Parsky has taken over control of the CRP and plans to give grassroots conservatives the boot. As for proof it might be Schroeder, go back to Parskywatch #8. There is this slap at Parsky being at the Lakers vs. Kings game instead of raising money for the CRP. As one email to **Calpeek** read: "Schroeder's season tickets to the Lakers had him sitting two rows behind Parsky at last Friday night's game shown live on **NBC-TV** (sitting) with CRP Asst. Treas. Phil Stump." Like we said, Schroeder would be our choice, but we don't know this for a fact. It remains a secret, just like *Deep Throat*. Stay tuned…

***PART 5 – ENERGY & POLITICS:* OFFSHORE DRILLING IS A VERY HOT ISSUE IN BOTH CALIF. & FLORIDA.**

Editor's note: Offshore oil & gas drilling along Calif.'s coast has been a hot political issue ever since the big oil spill off Santa Barbara's coastline in 1969. Here's our analysis & commentary…

…As an issue, Calif. offshore drilling is always bubbling just under the surface. And in *Campaign 2002* the subject heated up in late May when President George W. Bush announced the U.S. government would buy back federally owned but undeveloped oil leases off **Florida's** coast at a cost of about $120 million…

…And when this was announced, Calif. officials – Gov. Gray Davis, Demo U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein and U.S. Rep. Lois Capps(D-Santa Barbara) immediately wanted to know why Pres. Bush wouldn't do the same thing for *36* undeveloped federal oil/gas leases off Calif.'s central coast? One answer is that Pres. Bush's brother, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, is running for reelection. Offshore drilling is a very hot topic in Florida and Pres. Bush's action was very helpful to Gov. Jeb. Politically, giving Calif. Gov. Davis the same break wouldn't be helpful to the campaign of GOP candidate Bill Simon Jr. And as it turns out, that appears to be what's happened. More about this next week…

…Another answer may be cost: the Minerals Management Service of the DOI estimates the cost of the Calif. leases at $200-300 million. Industry sources think the leases are worth $1-2 billion…

…But the answer which irked Gov. Davis came from Interior Dept. Sec. Gail Norton: *…A major difference between Florida and Calif. is that Florida opposes coastal drilling and Calif. does not."* Yes, there are oil/gas wells offshore along Calif.'s coast, but there hasn't been any new exploration for 30 years or more. The current drilling is on lease agreements signed 50 years ago. In addition, Davis said in a letter to Norton that State law bans new leases expect in a case of a national emergency

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or when wells on federal leases drain oil from State lands…

…Why the concern now? Among some sources it all has to do with the Bush Admin.'s pro-drilling approach to solving the nation's dependence on Middle East oil. If the administration is willing to drill in Alaska, why not off Calif.'s central coast? Or so the argument goes. However, oil industry sources think the *political heat* would be intolerable if the Bush Admin. were to allow new oil/gas exploration in these 36 undeveloped federal leases. Calif. does have one ace: the Calif. Coastal Commission has the right of review for any new exploration. Stay tuned…

***DOG DAYS OF SUMMER*: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.**
Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting…

■ ***COPS Endorse Simon*** – In 1998 the Calif. Organization of Police & Sheriffs(COPS) was one of the first statewide law & order groups to endorse Gray Davis for governor. In 2002 they've given their endorsement to GOPer Bill Simon Jr. It's a very solid endorsement which Simon can use in tv spots, but COPS is a relatively small group of rank & file officers compared to CCPOA or PORAC. Most of the other law & order groups have gone with Davis. But there's more to this story…

…An internal *COPS memo* released by the Davis campaign suggests COPS also made this endorsement as a way to send a digital salute to PORAC. The memo said in part, "*If we can get 100-150 associations endorsing Simon, it would seriously undermine PORAC and their endorsement of Davis*." Why the hostility between PORAC and COPS? It all has to do with membership, clout with Davis and money. And don't forget that in 2001 PORAC sponsored a bill (AB 374 by Demo Barbara Matthews) which tried to screw over the COPS slate mailer…

■ ***CRP's Steel Vs. Karl Rove*** – Although CRP Chair Shawn Steel (in an interview with *Bulletin News Network*) insists he was not pressured to resign from the RNC's executive committee, that's not what Cragg Hines, the savvy DC political columnist for the *Houston Chronicle* suggests in his 6/16 story. He says Karl Rove ordered the outster of Steel from the RNC's executive cmt. Steel was given a choice: resign or be fired. Hines described Rove's action as a *kneecapping* of Steel for disloyalty to President Bush. And it's all about this continuing intra-party GOP fight between Steel and Bush's Calif. go-to guy Gerald Parsky. Or as Calif. Demos call it, *GOP circular firing squad antics*…

■ ***Special Interest War in El Segundo*** – And a very costly special interest war at that – Kilroy Realty spending an estimated $500,000 to stop Thomas Properties Group (Jim Thomas – formerly MacGuire Thomas) from developing 1.6 million sq. feet of office space with hotel, retail & restaurants in El Segundo. Thomas spent $425,000 and retained L.A.'s MWW Group. This refundenum (the council had already approved the deal) was reaffirmed with a 67% vote (Thomas won)…

■ ***New Polling Data on Same Sex Marriage*** – A new survey by Decision Research shows Calif. voters still opposed to gay marriage by a 49% vs. 45% margin, with 6% undecided. In 2000, a Decision Research poll showed opposition at 50% vs. 42% support. And in the current poll, 75% believe that same sex marriage will eventually become legal. The Decision Research survey was taken June 6-8 among 500 registered voters…

■ ***Easy Come, Easy Go*** – Plans to develop a new NFL football stadium next to Staples in downtown L.A. have been scrapped. No sooner had the location been announced, when the Anschutz Entertainment Group(AEG) decided to fold its campaign. Bad idea to begin with. Besides, L.A. already has two great football teams: USC Trojans and UCLA Bruins. Who needs the NFL…

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK

● **Professional membership association** seeks full-time communications director. Salary low-mid 40s, DOE. Send resume to Executive Director, 1832 11th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. EOE.

● **National Democratic polling** firm currently seeking research analyst and intern for San Diego office. Analyst requires political polling experience, excellent writing skills. SPSS and campaign experience a plus. Salary dependent upon experience. Send resume and letter to Heidi@Decisionr.com, fax (619)702-0075.

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